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REMARKS

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the above amendment and reconsideration in view of the amendment and the following remarks.

New claim 21 is substantially the same as previous claim 4, but rewritten in independent form.

New claim 22 is substantially the same as previous claim 8, but rewritten in independent form.

New claim 23 is substantially the same as previous claim 9, but is dependent on claim 22.

New claim 24 is substantially the same as previous claim 14, but rewritten in independent form.

Regarding the rejections of the claims, applicant respectfully traverses the assertions in the previous office actions.

In response to the rejection of claims 1, 11, and 18 under 35 USC 102(b) for allegedly being anticipated "Face Recognition ..." by Lorente et. al., the reference does not disclose a "neural network classifier device" as in claims 1, 11 and 18.

In response to the rejection of claims 2-3, 5-7, 10, 12-13, 15-17 and 19-20 under 35 USC 103(a) for allegedly being unpatentable over "Face Recognition ..." by Lorente et. al. in view of "Mixture of Experts ..." by Gutta et. al., the combination of citations does not disclose using a "neural network classifier" for recognizing faces in which different portions of the face are iteratively classified. The neural network classifier of "Mixture of Experts ..." by Gutta et. al. is only able to classify the face according to gender, ethnic origine and pose, thus, it is not a face recognition system. The "Face Recognition ..." by Lorente et. al. is based on calculating eigenfaces. It is not the invention of applicants claim 1 to combine a neural network face classifier with an eigenface based face recognizer, and it is not clear that there would be any advantage of the system proposed by the examiner.

The claims are definite and distinguished from the citations and Applicant respectfully requests the allowance of all claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee (except the issue fee) including fees for any required extension of time, to Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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